

Honorary Secretary's and Membership Secretary's Report for the year October 2017-October 2018

Last year's AGM was held at Burgh House in Hampstead and was followed by a joint meeting of the London Record Society and the Camden History Society. A talk by Dr Robin Woolven provided an entertaining introduction to volume 52, *The Diaries of Anthony Heap*, the Society's volume for 2017. The Society is grateful to Burgh House and the Camden History Society for their generous help with organising the event.

Reconstruction of the Society's website is still in progress after its move to a different website host. The full listing and description of volumes should soon be completed, along with the addition of reviews for the volumes and some visual material for the Home page.

The Council has developed a policy compliant with the new data protection legislation which came into force in May 2018, along the lines favoured by the Information Commissioner's Office. In addition, the Council has considered the Charity Commission's new guidance in a number of areas (specifically conflict of interest and particularly concerning the selection, qualification and induction of suitable trustees).

In view of the escalating costs associated with storage of stock, the Council has again examined the likely benefit to the charity which would result from a sale of stock. The set-up costs and quality of Print on Demand (as opposed to traditional reprinting and stock holding) have also been subject to discussion.

Membership

As of 12 Aug 2018, subscription payments have been received for 219 members, viz. (end-of-year figures for 2017 added alongside for comparison):

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Institutional Members	110	118
Personal Members	109	119
Complimentary	8	8
<i>Total</i>	227	245

The 2017 end-of-year figures ended up being only slightly lower than those for 2016, but the trend remains downwards. This year there are 15 members who have not yet renewed, but in 5 cases, represented by a single agent, most if not all will probably renew.

Recruitment remains difficult, and any help in bringing the Society to the attention of those who might like to become members is greatly appreciated. On the positive side, the change of subscription rates did not affect renewals as greatly as it might have done, and it is very encouraging that so many members were willing to accept the need for an increase.

Direct Debit Payments

As announced at the 2017 AGM, the Society has now moved to a system of Direct Debit [DD] administered by GoCardless. The Society itself will not hold financial information on any of its members. For 2019, any member who wishes to pay by DD will need to cancel their Standing Order and set up the DD instead, but in subsequent years no action will be required (members will be notified when payment is due). Details of how to complete a DD mandate, which is done online, will be supplied when subscriptions reminders are sent out (or members can at any time ask the Membership Secretary to set up and forward a link to their account). It is also possible to make one-off payments using this system. The DD can be cancelled at any time by notifying the Membership Secretary.

Helen Bradley

Penny Tucker